Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising a sequence of amino acid residues selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid number 32 (His)[[,]] to amino acid number 253 (Phe); and

(b) the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid number 1 (Met)[[,]] to amino acid number 253 (Phe)~~; and~~

~~(c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to (a) or (b)~~.

2. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide 298 to nucleotide 962; and

(b) a polynucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide 205 to nucleotide 962~~; and~~

~~(c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to (a) or (b)~~.

3. (previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide sequence according to claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide comprises nucleotide 94 to nucleotide 759 of SEQ ID NO:5.

4. (Canceled)

5. (currently amended) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

a transcription promoter;

a DNA segment encoding a polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid number 32 (His)[[,]] to amino acid number 253 (Phe); and

a transcription terminator,

wherein the promoter is operably linked to the DNA segment, and the DNA segment is operably linked to the transcription terminator.

6. (Original) An expression vector according to claim 5, further comprising a secretory signal sequence operably linked to the DNA segment.

7. (Original) A cultured cell comprising an expression vector according to claim 5, wherein the cell expresses a polypeptide encoded by the DNA segment.

8. (currently amended) A DNA construct encoding a fusion protein, the DNA construct comprising:

a first DNA segment encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid number 32 (His)[[,]] to amino acid number 253 (Phe); and

at least one other DNA segment encoding an additional polypeptide,

wherein the first and other DNA segments are connected in-frame; and

wherein the first and other DNA segments encode the fusion protein.

9. (Original) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

a transcription promoter;

a DNA construct encoding a fusion protein according to claim 8; and

a transcription terminator,

wherein the promoter is operably linked to the DNA construct, and the DNA construct is operably linked to the transcription terminator.

10. (Original) A cultured cell comprising an expression vector according to claim 9, wherein the cell expresses a polypeptide encoded by the DNA construct.

11. (Original) A method of producing a fusion protein comprising:

culturing a cell according to claim 10; and

isolating the polypeptide produced by the cell.

12-13. (canceled)

14. (Original) A method of producing a polypeptide comprising:

culturing a cell according to claim 7; and

isolating the polypeptide produced by the cell.

15-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide consisting of a sequence of amino acid residues selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid number 32 (His)[[,]] to amino acid number 253 (Phe); and

(b) the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid number 1 (Met)[[,]] to amino acid number 253 (Phe)~~; and~~

~~(c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to (a) or (b)~~.

27. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid number 32 (His)[[,]] to amino acid number 253 (Phe)~~ and a polynucleotide sequences complementary thereto~~.

28. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 2, wherein the polynucleotide consists of a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide 298 to nucleotide 962; and

(b) a polynucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide 205 to nucleotide 962~~; and~~

~~(c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to (a) or (b)~~.

29. (currently amended) The DNA construct encoding a fusion protein according to claim 8, wherein the ~~DNA segment encoding an~~ additional polypeptide comprises an affinity tag.

30. (previously presented) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

a transcription promoter;

a DNA construct encoding a fusion protein according to claim 29; and

a transcription terminator,

wherein the promoter is operably linked to the DNA construct, and the DNA construct is operably linked to the transcription terminator.

31. (previously presented) A cultured cell comprising an epression vector according to claim 30, wherein the cell expresses a polypeptide encoded by the DNA construct.

32. (previously presented) A method of producing a fusion protein comprising:

culturing a cell according to claim 31; and

isolating the polypeptide produced by the cell.

33. (new) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said polynucleotide hybridizes to the 7q21 region of human chromosome 7 under hybridization wash conditions of 0.1x SSC to 0.2x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 55°C-65°C.

34. (new) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 14 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said polynucleotide hybridizes to the 7q21 region of human chromosome 7 under hybridization wash conditions of 0.1x SSC to 0.2x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 55°C-65°C.